

## Frilling, Tara

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**From:** Alan Cohen <ac@elixirspawpt.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 6:00 PM  
**To:** Sen. Fasano, Len  
**Cc:** Frilling, Tara; Krautler Patricia; jagargiulo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Tax Hike - Public Hearing Testimony

Dear Senator Fasano and Representative Klarides:

The pervasive view of tax policy among too many politicians feeds into the systemic corruption that underlies the collection and administration of public money. Fiscal irresponsibility and lack of accountability for states is no less stunning and can be no less accepted than at the federal level. Targeting of CT residents and businesses as the no-brainer "go to" source for dollars, has become the diversionary "solution" du jour and diversion from addressing fundamental fiscal illness. Before ANY new taxes are even considered, there must be, in earnest, a critical examination of all CT programs. Such examination to be conducted by an IG, objective government agency, finance committee, or other independent auditor. Programs should be earmarked for modification/elimination and their allocations diverted to funding of new, rationalized initiatives. A report documenting same should be released for public review and scrutiny. The guiding criteria are not new and should include, at least:

- programs that are out-dated and unnecessary
- programs that are inefficient, mismanaged and fraudulent
- programs that are duplicative/redundant
- programs that are better served by the private sector
- programs that are mis-targeted, where recipients should not be eligible for government benefits

Needless to say, many other objectives can be considered.

The consequences of CT's fiscal/tax policies are abysmal, as evidenced by consistently low ranking of the state's tax climate, particularly as it impacts business. Once again the State Business Tax Climate Index mirrors the numerous other studies finding CT among the 10 worst (#42) states. Additionally, CT is #5 among states, in 2014, where more people moved out than in. Yet, year after year, tax change packages continue to fly in the face of contemporary success metrics.

Continuation down this path is a reflection of a government that is in complete denial of fiscal and market realities. When the dust settles (and it will) all the happy talk and positive spin will impress only the ideologically and politically like-minded. Finally, as in all instances, when reality fully catches up with ideology and special interest, whatever future generations still find themselves in CT will inherit the aftermath and curse those who brought it to them.

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